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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0993
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9993
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3479
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5906
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1526
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2000
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3366
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000794

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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IRAN - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's business daily Nihon Keizai front-paged a report that the Chinese government has sounded out Japanese railroad companies on technical support for the construction of a railroad between the northeastern cities of Harbin and Dalian.

¶1. "Iran Should Show Confidence-Building Posture" The business daily Nihon Keizai editorialized (2/25): "International tensions are continuing over Iran's nuclear development program. The UNSC adopted a resolution in December calling on Iran to halt its uranium enrichment activity within 60 days while enforcing limited punitive measures, including a ban on the transfer of nuclear material to Iran. Despite this, Tehran has defied the 60-day deadline and is expanding its uranium enrichment activity. Iran's move is extremely regrettable. Iranian President Ahmadinejad continues to say he will protect Iran's rights without succumbing to pressure from major powers. On the other hand, however, US Vice President Cheney has criticized Iran's move as a serious mistake, repeatedly saying that all options remain on the table for dealing with the problem. As things stand, there are concerns that sooner or later, the US and Iran will find themselves on a collision course.... Iran, which insists on nuclear development for peaceful purposes, claims that it can diplomatically resolve the issue. Nonetheless, there will be no diplomatic progress unless Iran assumes a posture of building confidence with other nations."

DONOVAN